

Dear Justine:

When you fell in love with Don, his life changed for the better. And so did mine. Here was this beautiful woman with a radiant smile who would become a part of our family. How lucky we all were! It was as if we had been waiting for you forever. Your goodness and generosity spilled over all of us. I became a better person just being around you. And I finally had a daughter.

I miss our walks and talks; we would laugh and cry about the foibles of life, trying to make sense of it all. I miss our language of the heart, your well earned wisdom. I miss the joy in Don's face since you were so rudely taken away. The emptiness is profound!

Your message of kindness was coupled with an honest appraisal of how you could express your highest potential. As a result, you knew we could reach ours. You were authentic, a real person who used the tools of transformation to change your life. Your life was your message. I was one of many who flocked to your classes and meditations; a willing student to your message of love and transformation. Hard to believe you are not here; a vacuum that cannot be filled.

The wedding plans were underway. I modeled for you the special outfit that I would wear. You kept your dress a secret, only to be seen on that day in Hawaii when you and Don became one in marriage. This joyful time ended with a door slammed in our face. My dress was sent to Goodwill. Wedding plans became a Memorial Service. I grapple with the loss.

I have memories of wandering the streets, lost in the tragedy of your death. Strangers would come up to me with a story of how you changed their life for the better; tears on their face. You gave yourself freely. Our loss is a loss for humanity.

Justine your legacy is alive and well in my life: "Happiness is helping others. In being kind to others, you're being kind to yourself." Your purpose has blended with mine. In this way your message continues to resonate in the world.

Sharon Lebrun